

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending, wherein claim 1 has been amended to even more clearly define the present invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 in view of the above-identified amendment and the remarks presented herein below.

In paragraph 2, the Office Action objects to Figs. 1, 3, 5 and 12 because only that which is old is illustrated and therefore should be designated by a the legend "Prior Art". In response, Figs. 1-12 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art", thereby addressing the Examiner's concerns.

In paragraph 4, the Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,305,043 to Ho et al. ("HO"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 8, as amended, defines a hybrid coupler that includes, among other features, four differential ports. Furthermore, the coupler is arranged to couple differential radio frequency signals having a certain frequency from at least one differential port to at least one other differential port.

Ho discloses an impedance transforming coupler which can be used as a power divider or power combiner at microwave frequencies. The coupler is a branch line coupler having four curved branches a quarter wavelength long at the center frequency. However, nowhere in Ho is there any disclosure of the coupler comprising 4 *differential* ports or of the coupler being arranged to couple differential radio frequency signals as claimed.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore claims 2 and 3 are patentably distinguishable over Ho for at least those reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Ho.

In paragraph 5, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,911,372 to Seidel ("Seidel").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Seidel discloses an amplifier with matched input and output impedance. The amplifier includes, among other things, a first and second 3 db hybrid coupler. However, Seidel, like Ho, fails to disclose the coupler includes four *differential* ports or that it is arranged to couple differential radio frequency signals as claimed. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-7 are not anticipated by Seidel. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Seidel.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 12, 2003